

REMARKS

This amendment is presented in response to the Office Action dated April 22nd, 2005 (hereafter, the Action). In the Action, the Examiner issued a restriction requirement, indicating that Claims 1-54 (Group I) were patentably distinct from those of Claims 55-60 (Group II). In response, Applicant respectfully disagrees.

Nonetheless, in an effort to expedite prosecution of this matter, and without adopting the characterization of the Claims provided in the Action, Applicant elects Group I (Claims 1-54) for prosecution herein.

CONCLUSION

In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully asserted that all of the claims pending in this patent application are in condition for allowance.

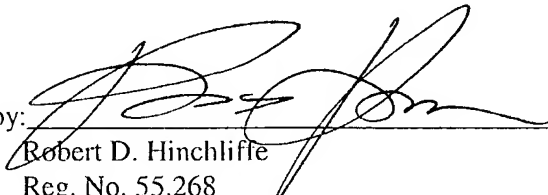
Should it be determined that an additional fee is due under 37 CFR §§1.16 or 1.17, or any excess fee has been received, please charge that fee or credit the amount of overcharge to deposit account #02-2666.

If the Examiner has any questions, he is invited to contact the undersigned at (503) 264-6473. Reconsideration of this patent application and early allowance of all the claims is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

Date: May 18, 2005

by:


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